

1           24.   (Currently Amended): A method of scheduling an event with respect to  
2 a hard copy output engine ~~including a sensor event~~, comprising:

3               providing a hard copy output engine configured to use a consumable  
4 commodity comprising:

5                   a sensor;

6                   a processor; and

7                   a memory;

8               ~~detecting sensing status information relating to the hard copy engine using~~  
9 ~~the sensor, including status of a future need for maintenance of the hard copy output~~  
10 ~~engine and billing information for job accounting of the consumable commodity;~~

11               processing the status information, wherein the processing includes  
12 comparing the status information to information housed in the memory to determine if  
13 notification should occur to a notification recipient;

14               ~~composing an electronic message including~~ to the notification recipient  
15 that includes the detected status information; and

16               transmitting the electronic message from the hard copy output engine to a  
17 scheduling engine.

1           25.   (Previously added): The method of claim 24, wherein detecting  
2 includes detecting a toner low or toner out status.

1           26.   (Previously added): The method of claim 24, wherein composing an  
2 electronic message includes composing the electronic message to include  
3 information chosen from a list consisting of: percentage of remaining consumable,  
4 blind carbon copy to, copy to, company addressed to, expected completion date,  
5 defer until, due date, duration, event address, expiration date, follow-up flag,  
6 importance, owner, priority, return receipt request status, remind beforehand,  
7 reminder, reminder override default, required attendee list, resources, sensitivity,  
8 date sent, start date, addressee, tracking status, consumables order list,  
9 maintenance items, malfunction and preventative maintenance items.

1 27. (Previously added): The method of claim 24, wherein detecting a  
2 status includes detecting a status from a list of status items consisting of: toner out,  
3 toner low, preventative maintenance alerts, including cleaning or replacement of  
4 component parts, consumables orders, internal billing dates for job accounting,  
5 external billing dates for job accounting, low paper, out of paper, low consumables,  
6 out of consumables, and need maintenance.

1 28. (Previously added): The method of claim 24, wherein the hard copy  
2 output engine is chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers  
3 and printers.

1 29. (Previously added): The method of claim 24, wherein transmitting the  
2 electronic message to a scheduling engine comprises transmitting an electronic  
3 message including a consumable order.

1 30. (Currently amended): The method of claim 24, wherein ~~detecting a~~  
2 ~~future need for preventative maintenance~~ sensing status information includes  
3 ~~detecting~~ sensing a future need for ~~cleaning or replacement of a component part~~  
4 preventative maintenance.

31-37 (Cancelled)

38. (Currently amended) A computer implemented hard copy output engine control system ~~for a hard copy output engine~~, the system comprising:

a plurality of sensors coupled to the hard copy output engine, the sensors being configured to provide status information relating to a plurality of aspects of the hard copy output engine; and

processing circuitry coupled to the sensors ~~and~~ the processing circuitry configured to:

read the sensors and detect the status of the aspects of the hard copy engine, ~~the aspects including the need for preventative maintenance and billing information for job accounting~~; and

selectively look up from a memory contact information for a notification recipient intended to be notified of the status of the aspects of the hard copy engine, compose an electronic message including the detected status, and transmit the electronic message from the hard copy output engine to a scheduling engine.

39. (Currently amended): The computer implemented hard copy output engine control system of claim 38, wherein the processing circuitry is further configured to detect a toner low or toner out status.

40. (Currently amended): The computer implemented hard copy output engine control system of claim 38, wherein the processing circuitry is further configured to compose the electronic message to include information chosen from a list consisting of: percentage of remaining consumable, blind carbon copy to, copy to, company addressed to, expected completion date, defer until, due date, duration, event address, expiration date, follow-up flag, importance, owner, priority, return receipt request status, remind beforehand, reminder, reminder override default, required attendee list, resources, sensitivity, date sent, start date, addressee, tracking status, consumables order list, maintenance items, malfunction and preventative maintenance items.

41. (Currently amended) The computer implemented hard copy output engine control system of claim 38, wherein the aspects of the hard copy output engine include: toner out, toner low, preventative maintenance alerts, including cleaning or replacement of component parts, consumables orders, low paper, out of paper, low consumables, out of consumables, and need maintenance.

1           42.   (Currently amended): The computer implemented hard copy output  
 2 engine control system of claim 38, wherein the processing circuitry is further  
 3 configured to detect a status of a hard copy output engine chosen from a group  
 4 consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

1           43.   (Currently amended): The computer implemented hard copy output  
 2 engine control system of claim 38, wherein the processing circuitry is further  
 3 configured to detect a future need for ~~cleaning or replacement of a component part~~  
 4 preventative maintenance.

44-49. (Cancelled)

1           50.   (New): The computer implemented control system of claim 38,  
 2 wherein the processing circuitry is further configured to detect a future need for  
 3 cleaning or replacement of a component part.

1           51.   (New): A hard copy output engine configured to consumer toner in  
 2 rendering images, comprising:  
 3           a sensor configured to sense if toner level falls below a predetermined  
 4 threshold;  
 5           a processor coupled to the sensor,  
 6           a memory coupled to the processor;  
 7           the processor being configured to determine, using the sensor, if toner level is  
 8 below the predetermined threshold; and  
 9           the processor further configured to look up from memory contact information  
 10 for a notification recipient intended to be notified if toner level falls below the  
 11 predetermined threshold level and to compose an electronic message from the hard  
 12 copy output engine to the notification recipient that indicates that toner is below the  
 13 predetermined threshold.

1           52.   (New): The hard copy output engine of claim 51, wherein the sensor  
 2 and processor are configured to sense and process information relating to paper  
 3 inventory.

1           53.   (New): The hard copy output engine of claim 51, wherein the sensor  
2 and processor are configured to sense and process information relating to  
3 maintenance.

1           54.   (New): The hard copy output engine of claim 51, wherein the  
2 electronic message further includes information chosen from a list consisting of:  
3 percentage of remaining consumable, blind carbon copy to, copy to, company  
4 addressed to, expected completion date, defer until, due date, duration, event  
5 address, expiration date, follow-up flag, importance, owner, priority, return receipt  
6 request status, remind beforehand, reminder, reminder override default, required  
7 attendee list, resources, sensitivity, date sent, start date, addressee, tracking status,  
8 consumables order list, maintenance items, malfunction and preventative  
9 maintenance items.

1           55.   (New): The hard copy output engine of claim 51, wherein the sensor is  
2 configured to sense and the processor is configured to process at least one of the  
3 following status items: preventative maintenance alerts, including cleaning or  
4 replacement of component parts, consumables orders, internal billing dates for job  
5 accounting, external billing dates for job accounting, low paper, out of paper, low  
6 consumables, out of consumables, and need maintenance.

1           56.   (New): The hard copy output engine of claim 51, wherein the hard  
2 copy output engine is chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile machines,  
3 photocopiers and printers.

---